

Welcome to First Congregational

Donating to First Congregational UCC

You are invited to donate via virtual offering. Please visit our webpage and click “Give” to make your weekly offering, or text FCUCC GIVE to 73256. Checks can also still be mailed to the church.

References to God

References to God in traditional prayers, readings, and hymns in our worship may sometimes be gender specific. As we pray and sing together, you are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the full inclusiveness of the spirit of God.

Land Acknowledgement

Our church is located on the ancestral homelands of the Menominee Nation. We acknowledge this indigenous community who stewarded this land throughout the generations and pay respect to their elders past and present.

Online Streaming and Podcasting

Audio and video recordings of our sermons and a written transcript are accessible at www.firstcongoappleton.org/sermons.

You can watch a live stream of First Congo services on [Facebook.com/1stCongo](https://www.facebook.com/1stCongo) or at www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/livestream.

Online Documents and Information

Official documents of First Congregational and links to announcements, news and other information reside on our website: www.firstcongoappleton.org.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

TRINITY SUNDAY

June 7, 2020

9:30 AM

Rev. Dr. Stephen P. Savides, Senior Pastor
Rev. Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries

PRELUDE

Processional on "Hyfrydol"

Rowland H. Prichard

Kristen Henke, trumpet David Cook, assistant organist

YOUTH PRAYER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

OPENING PRAYER

God of faith, God of hope, God of love, grant us this day a fresh vision of your presence in this world. Help us to see all the places you are at work. And having seen, O Lord, send us out into the world to share in that work with you. Meet with us today and guide our minds and our feet along the path of your choosing. We pray all this using the prayer that Christ taught saying:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (In unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN #10

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

NICAEA

Stanza 1:

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty;
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

(continued on next page)

Stanza 2:

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
God ever living, through eternity.

Stanza 3:

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the sinful human eye thy glory may not see;
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.

Stanza 4:

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty;
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Renee Taylor, Director for Youth Ministries

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 13:1-6 (OT, p. 609)

MEDITATION

"The Cross and the Lynching Tree: A Requiem for Ahmaud Arbery"

Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Hallelujah

Trad.

Paul and Kristin Eggen, *father and daughter vocal duo*

(During this time, you are invited to a virtual offering. Please visit our webpage and click "Give" to make your weekly offering, or text FCUCC GIVE to 73256).

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

You are invited to hold your communion supplies and we will partake of them together as instructed.

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Leader: We are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing. Though this church community is now scattered, we are still one in Christ. In your many kitchens, and living rooms, rest your hands lightly upon the elements

which you set aside today to be a sacrament. Let us ask God's blessing upon them.

People: Gentle Redeemer, there is no lockdown on your blessing and no quarantine on grace. Send your Spirit of life and love, power and blessing upon every table where your children shelter in place, that this Bread may be broken and gathered in love and this Cup poured out to give hope to all. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you.

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

People: We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

People: We are one in Christ in the cup we share.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of grace, rejoicing that, by the very method of our worship, we have embodied the truth that Christ's love is not limited by buildings made with human hands, nor contained in human ceremonies, but blows as free as the Spirit in all places.

People: Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak faith and act love, not only in church sanctuaries, but in your precious world, and may the drinking of this Cup renew our hope even in the midst of pandemic. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and let us become your compassion and safe refuge. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #504

God of Justice, God of Mercy

HYFRYDOL

Stanza 1:

**God of justice, God of mercy, make us merciful and just!
Help us see all your creation as from you a sacred trust.
And when people cry in anguish for their own and others' pain,
show us ways to make a difference. O dear God, make us humane!**

(continued next page)

Stanza 2:

How can we, as people chosen by your grace for service here -
how endure another's hardship without offering hope or cheer?
God, forgive us, we beseech you, when our love fails to empower.
Teach us how to be more faithful in this present, crucial hour.

Stanza 3:

You have formed us, God of rainbows, in your image for your will.
Seeing our diverse reflections, trusting you, we marvel still;
for our colors, strengths and talents show what one alone would lack,
calling us to work together - brown, red, golden, white and black.

Stanza 4:

Grant all people work with meaning, strength to care for those they love.
Food for table, truth for telling, challenges to rise above.
But remind us, God of justice, this is now our work, our call!
Changing life's oppressive systems into ones empow'ring all.

Stanza 5:

So the vision you have planted in each human mind and heart
now becomes the spark of action calling us to do our part.
Keep that vision clear before us: men and women, girls and boys,
valued in response and witness, sharing challenges and joys.

WORDS: Jane Parker Huber, 1983

MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1844: harm, Ralph Vaughan Williams, *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Written for a Presbyterian Women's meeting in 1983, Huber's text delineates the meaning of Micah 6:8 for our present day.

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CLOSING LITANY FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Leader: As we look back along the sinful pathway of our past, however weary we might be in this struggle for justice, we also see the presence of your faithfulness, O God.

People: Give to us the spirit of our forebears in faith, the love of one for another, and the pursuit of freedom for all humankind to continue the change taking place. We will not fear, but trust that we shall know the fullness of your love.

Leader: God has led us through years of pain and struggle and the ways of peace and justice remain our guiding precepts; God will guide us in the ways of righteousness for one another.

People: We shall be faithful to God's ways, known or to be made known by us. God's will shall yet prevail in this land.

Leader: God weeps for us in our ignorance, misunderstanding, and hate; and prays for us to learn the things which bring peace to all people.

People: We will turn away from the things which are cunning and bloodthirsty. We will turn our whips into plowshares and our hearts into the pruning hooks of peace.

Leader: God has forgiven our follies so that we might know the love that is in Christ Jesus.

People: We shall eat the bread of mercy and drink the cup of grace. We seek to show forth God's presence in all of our ways.

Leader: Go forth, then, you redeemed of the Creator. Serve God daily through the holy Covenant. God's will shall reign forever.

People: We shall trust that God's spirit will bless these hills and these valleys from this day forth until God's reign comes to fulfillment. Thanks be to God. Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Angel Band

Trad.

Kristin Eggen, *guitar and vocals*

Paul Eggen, *tenor*

POSTLUDE

Psalm XIX

Benedetto Marcello

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

David Cook, *assistant organist*

Kristen Henke, *trumpet*

Kristin Eggen, *guitar and vocals*

Paul Eggen, *tenor*

John Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

Thank you to Susan McFadden for serving as our lay reader this morning!

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**Livestream our Worship Service on Sundays at 9:30 AM on Facebook
or at www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/livestream/**

Daily Prayer Chapel Live on Facebook: Monday-Friday at Noon

Upcoming Worship Schedule

June 14, 2020

Rev. Nick Hatch

Livestreaming at 9:30 AM

Music: Barb Armstrong, Jann Kostecke, Liz Schneider; *flute trio*,
Shelley Nulton, *assistant organist*

Lay Reader: Marty Black



JOYS AND CONCERNS OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Members of our church family benefit from our prayers, support, and words of encouragement as they celebrate special times or struggle with difficulties in their lives. Please keep these people in your prayers and greet them with a loving word when you see them.

If you are in the hospital, please let the church know, as we are not always notified. In cases of a pastoral emergency, please call (920) 810-2600.

Jill Anthony's sister
Paul Bauman
Katie Behl
Arlene Beyer
Judy Burdick, Megan Burdick-Grade's mother
Olive Bopp
Alyssa Villarreal Brooks
Don Brittnacher
Chris Calhoun
Dick Casperson
John Cawthon
Steve Chapin
Lynn Cook
Michael, Dick and Kathy Devries' son-in-law
Family of Randy Dorschner upon the death
of his mother, Donna
Jim Edwards
A friend diagnosed with cancer
Margitta Furnner
Esther Gehrt
Ken Geiger
Ivo Geurts
Linda Glancey, Lane Pittner's mother
Maggie Hendrick
Ken Hocking
Carolyn and Jim Huddleston
Immigrants/refugees seeking a better life
Jean Jepson
Our Kenyan partners and students
Sylvia King
Ervin Klesmit

Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law
Rev. Kathryn Kuhn
Carrie Brooks McClory and her triplets
Mike Mathews
Shari Mitchell
Our country's military around the world
Ellie Olson
Mory, Anthony Padilla's son
Families and children of Palestine
Diane Ragus
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher
Ken Rheingans
Don Roehrborn
Mary Rowland
Family of Ted Sanderson upon his death
Judy Schneider
Frank Severin
Jake Smasal
Amanda Spindler
Cole Stoffel
All those in need of suicide prevention and
compassionate caregivers
James Totzke and his mother, Leah Totzke
Beverly Trombla
Don Utschig
Jean Van Wagenin
Mya Wardle, Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter
Jean Wegner
Jennifer Wild
Family of Gary Wisneski upon his death
The World in the midst of the pandemic

THE OPEN DOOR

Pastor's Message

June 2, 2020

Dear First Congregational:

Grace and peace to you amidst these turbulent and frightening times we find ourselves living in. Many of you have expressed a myriad of emotions to me about the unfolding events taking place across our nation. Some of us are disturbed and frightened by the looting and violence that is occurring alongside peaceful protests. Others of us find ourselves confused by the incoherent or harmful reactions of people in power and yet others of us fear for the safety of our officers and business owners. Despite our collective concerns, there are those who see this time pregnant with the potential for a new social order that gives them hope; hope that this might be the time when our nation's plaintive cries for justice are finally heard. And let us not be distracted by the core of what has taken place: anger over the unjustified killing of a black man in broad daylight.

And yet, despite this gruesome incident, we see examples of the innate goodness and love towards that which God has gifted us. When Shawn, a black man who lives in Nashville, posted he was afraid to take a walk in his own neighborhood, his whole neighborhood showed up to walk with him. Across the country, when peaceful protests turned into acts of property destruction, participants returned to sweep streets, scrub graffiti, and clean up. Police departments around the country took a knee to show their solidarity and hurt at our societal problems. Goodness is there, love is at work, hearts are being transformed.

No matter what we think or feel about these times it is very clear that as a nation we are in the midst of trauma and grief. We are traumatized by acts of brutality and violence, social unrest, and a lack of common decency. In the wake of this trauma we grieve injustice, we grieve change, we grieve our collective history of racism and ethnic genocide of our country. We grieve that in 2020, despite all our hard-won victories for the common good and the sacrifices made in the name of liberty, that we still have this mountain of injustice weighing so heavily upon us. It has not helped that the Covid-19 pandemic has placed the widening gap between the rich and poor on full display.

This common yearning for justice and equality is nothing new. Perhaps the Psalmist says it best when they wrote:

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

It is in times like these that our faith calls us to be a people of remarkable hope. We are called to see the world and its events not solely within their immediate context but placed within God's unfolding story of divine justice and guided by the power of the Holy Spirit. To be a follower of Christ means that the narrative we use to interpret our world is one defined by hope, informed by grace, and full of the same potential we celebrate throughout the year from the manger, to the cross, to the empty tomb. Let us not doubt, that no matter how terrible our immediate circumstances appear, God will use it for righteous and beautiful purposes. When we speak from this narrative of hope, we shall say, like the Psalmist:

One generation shall laud your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness.

In order for us to declare God's goodness and see God's mighty acts, we have to start by listening and recognizing the Holy in our midst. To this end, I invite you to participate in two experiences this week to guide and inform us as to how the Holy Spirit is at work in these times pursuing justice and peace for all.

First, we will forgo our normal noon prayer chapel on Thursday June 4. In its place, I invite you to join an interactive webinar put on by faith leaders in the UCC from 12-1:30 PM called "Addressing systemic violence Against African Americans in Contemporary America." We will gain greater insight into the situations which perpetuate the cycle of racial discrimination and violence we find ourselves in and hear opportunities we have to make positive change. You can register for this at UCC.org.

Second, in worship this Sunday we will feature a sermon from Rev. Otis Moss III, Senior Pastor at Trinity UCC in Chicago entitled "The Cross and the Lynching Tree: A Requiem for Ahmaud Arbery." In this cinematic sermon, Rev. Moss explains the historical roots of slavery leading to the dehumanization of African Americans and gives a compelling biblical response as to the kind of justice God asks us to participate in delivering.

Lastly, what we are seeing is not a surprise. I do not claim this to dismiss our collective sense of shock or moral outrage. Rather, our nation has long struggled with various forms of hate and discrimination be it by race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, socio-economic status, or innate condition. We are in the middle of great season of change; we cannot stop what is taking place. As people of faith we need to listen, to learn, to be prepared to have tough conversations, and be intentional in our actions so that all we do and all that we say is contributing towards God's justice and righteousness. I want to close by sharing a quote from a recent article by Rev. William J. Barber, co-chair of The Poor People's campaign:

If we take time to listen to this nation's wounds, they tell us where to look for hope. The hope is in the mourning and the screams, which make us want to rush from this place. There is a sense in

which right now we must refuse to be comforted too quickly. Only if these screams and tears and protests shake the very conscience of this nation – and until there is real political and judicial repentance, can we hope for a better society on the other side of this.

May we choose to listen first, may we hear the cries of those around us, may we understand God’s burning desire for justice, may we work for positive change, may we love our country and fellow citizens whole-heartedly, and may the Holy Spirit equip us to be the church in these turbulent times. Stay hopeful friends.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Nicholas J. Hatch

(This letter was read to the congregation on Facebook on June 2, 2020)



Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

Tech Buddy Program

Can you help a member of the congregation who cannot view the Sunday service being livestreamed on Facebook?

Are you wishing you could listen to the Sunday service, but you can't do that because you don't have a computer or cellphone to connect to Facebook Live?

We are organizing a low tech/high tech buddy system for people without access to Facebook. They may not have computers, tablets, or smart phones, but they do have telephones!

Here's how it works. If you have a speaker attached to the computer you use to tune in to Facebook Live, you can call your tech buddy 5 minutes before the service starts, check to make sure the sound is coming through your phone to your buddy's phone, and then place your phone by the speaker. Then both of you can listen to the service. After the service, you can chat a bit.

If you can't tune into Facebook Live and want to listen to the service on your phone, contact us. If you have the tech equipment and are willing to be a tech buddy, we'll make the match.



Contact us if you want to join us in this low tech/high tech ministry!

John can be reached at (920)-740-0144 or john.t.mcfadden@gmail.com.

Contact Susan at (920) 851-9885; or susan.h.mcfadden@gmail.com. We even have a landline: (920) 739-8695.

Creative Fellowship

The First Congo Chrysalis group recently gathered in the east parking lot to share what was new in their lives during the Safer at Home order, all while practicing social distancing. Nicely done!

Chrysalis is a women's spiritual formation group that focuses on community building through Bible study and prayer. Participants reflect on their spiritual journeys and share their hopes, dreams, ideas and fears to build bridges in their relationships with others and with God.



Worship and Music

*A diverse community practicing faith,
finding spiritual connection and experiencing
the Holy through artful sound.*

You Are Invited: Solo Singers and Instrumentalists in Worship!

We continue to be blessed with a wide variety of musical offerings since moving to 9:30 AM livestreaming in March.

Special thanks to **assistant organists David Cook and Shelley Nulton**, along with all the other musicians who have joined me, **John Albrecht**, in rehearsing and performing music (as scheduled through mid-June): **Kristen Henke, Karen Leigh-Post, John Aaholm, Joel Jicha, Chris Danz, Bruce Danz, Carmen Danz, Lori Murphy, Jeff Murphy, Jack Murphy, Michael Murphy, David Murphy, Jesse Baumgart, Nick Fahrenkrug, Emily Richter, Bianca Pratte, Kris Glenn, Shannon Glenn, Paul Nulton, Heather Hallett, Paul Eggen, Jann Kostecke, Barb Armstrong and Liz Schneider**. Additional thanks to our Technology Coordinator, **Jonathan Steffen**, and Communications Administrative Assistant, **Holly Volkman**, for working through all the new challenges of streaming with improved sound and visuals.

As we move forward into the rest of the summer, you are invited to serve in music ministry as a singer or instrumentalist!

Until the Covid-19 statistics change significantly (as outlined in Pastor Steve's Letter to the Congregation), we will be live-streaming a single service led by 9 or fewer people (pastors and staff, musicians, technology.) The health and safety of our congregation remain our primary concern.

Please call John Albrecht at **(920) 851-8097** or e-mail jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org with your interest; children through adults are welcome! I will contact you to discuss your schedule, worship themes, and music selection & rehearsal plans.

Know that I will work with you toward a performance date with appropriate music that you feel ready to present with confidence.

I look forward to hearing from you and your family!

In music ministry with you,
John Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*



Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice.*

New Mission Partner: Bread for the World

Bread for the World (bread.org) is a Christian movement started in 1982 urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. They work by changing policies, programs, and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist.

Bread for the World equips people to write personal letters and emails to senators and House representatives to end hunger. Each year, Bread for the World invites churches across the country to take up an *Offering of Letters* to Congress on legislation that impacts hungry and poor people. Bread for the World works in a bipartisan way. Their network of thousands of individual members, churches, and denominations is active in every congressional district.

For more information about Bread for the World locally, you can view the Fox Valley webinar with Nancy Jones, Prince of Peace ELCA Appleton and Zach Schmidt, regional organizer for Bread for the World.

Link to the recording:
<https://youtu.be/jgN7CpzhSmA>.

Bread for the World is asking us to send an email to Congress immediately to boost the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) maximum

benefits by 15% to ensure the vulnerable populations in the US have access to the resources they need.

The link to email Congress can be found at: www.bit.ly/WI-covid19.

Please add your 9-digit zip code to ensure the email will be sent to Senator Tammy Baldwin, Senator Ron Johnson, and your member of the House of Representatives. You do NOT have to fill in their names. It will send it automatically after you personalize it.

Sample letters and addresses are also provided to help you to personalize handwritten letters to your senators and representatives in Congress in support of the 2020 Offering of Letters goal to improve nutrition. A complete toolkit, with additional resources including editable Word letter templates, is available at <https://www.bread.org/toolkit>.

Sample letters:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/25b85825201/ff8f16c8-66c8-40e3-a373-d0bd433818b5.pdf>

Addresses:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/25b85825201/792af5d8-741c-4aca-8e8f-5ca5c21ef4ae.pdf>

Please let the First Congregational Mission and Service Ministry team know when you have sent your email and letters so they can report the volume of participation. Send an email to Sara Companik at scompanik@yahoo.com.

THANK YOU for using your time and your voice to advocate for those facing hunger!